

Message Text

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73

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /082 W

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R 051408Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8242

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDISABABA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOFORN LAGOS 2091

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NI, SF

SUBJECT: OAU CM: ARAB-AFRICAN COOPERATION

REF: ADDISABABA 2251 (NOTAL)

1. SENIOR MEMBER NIGERIAN DELEGATION TO OAU CM EXPRESSED PERSONAL VIEW TO EMBOFF MARCH 4 THAT AFRICAN-ARAB COOPERATION IS "FRAGMENTED AFFAIR" AT BEST. WHILE NIGERIA COULD NEVER ADMIT AS MUCH PUBLICLY, HE SAID, IT SEEMED TO HIM THERE WAS SERIOUS LACK OF UNDERSTANDING ON EACH SIDE OF WHAT OTHER PARTY WAS AFTER. ARABS, IN HIS VIEW, WERE MUCH MORE INTERESTED IN WORDS AND PROPAGANDA, WHILE AFRICANS WERE SEEKING EFFECTIVE ACTION, ESPECIALLY ON DEVELOPMENT FRONT.

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2. NEVERTHELESS, SOURCE CONTINUED, THERE WAS REALLY NO ALTERNATIVE TO CONTINUED EFFORT TO DEVELOP COOPERATION BETWEEN TWO GROUPS. THEY NEED EACH OTHER ON BOTH ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL GROUNDS, AND OAU ITSELF DEPENDS ON THEIR ABILITY TO WORK TOGETHER. RELATIONSHIP WILL PROBABLY NEVER BE ENTIRELY COMFORTABLE ONE,BUT NIGERIA AT LEAST WILL DO ALL IT CAN TO MAKE IT WORK.

3. WITH SPECIFIC REGARD TO IDEA OF AFRICAN-ARAB SUMMIT DISCUSSED AT CM, SOURCE AFFIRMED THAT SUCH SESSION ALMOST CERTAINLY WOULD BE HELD BUT EXPRESSED VIEW THAT IT WAS STILL SOME TIME IN FUTURE. FIRST STEP WOULD BE WORKING LEVEL DISCUSSION, TO BE FOLLOWED BY AFRICAN-ARAB MEETING AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL PRIOR TO EVENTUAL SUMMIT. THUS, IN ALL LIKELIHOOD, SESSION AT HEAD OF STATE LEVEL NOT LIKELY BE POSSIBLE UNTIL SOMETIME AFTER-OAU SUMMIT NOW SET FOR JULY.CROSBY

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